# Steering Group #3

June 21, 2012, 6-8pm

Kent Meridian High School - Teacher's Lounge

#### **Attendees:**

Melvin Tate, Caren Adams, Harpreet Gill, Manase Hopoi, Jim Renton, Ted Schwarz, Ann Eggers, Leslie Hamada, Gwen Allen-Carston, Maya Vengadasalan, Patty Pedrini, Johnetta Rowsey, Bruce Raymond, Harunn Nemoto, Rev. Jimmie James, Min. Alice James, Barbara Phillips, Ray Lee

# **ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Lori—Send email to schedule next planning meeting. Distribution list attached. Scheduling will begin June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2. All—Convene for the next planning meeting sometime in the next 5 weeks.
- 3. All—Hold a July event/forum to present findings to the community.

#### **AGENDA**

Welcome - Harpreet Gill

**Introductions, Roles & Goals –** Quickly reviewed roles of those involved in the project: Roles-

City of Kent: resource and project support United Way of King County: Phase I funders

Community Members: idea-generators and decision-makers

Project Youth: members Steering Group Members:

- Attend 3 Steering Group meetings
- Recommend strategic priorities
- Assist the City in securing funding for Phase 2 & 3
- Uphold code of collaboration
- Serve as an advocate for the project

#### Goals -

The East Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Project has three phases with the overall goal to develop powerful projects that realize East Hill's potential.

Steering Group #3 Goal-

To hear a report out for each of the Action Plans and outline next steps

**Project Context:** review <u>www.ci.kent.wa.us/content.aspx?id=20807</u> for a comprehensive summary of the work already done.

# 1. International District Action Plan (Harpreet Gill reviewed Action Plan - see attached)

# 2. Teen Center Action Plan (Youth from Project Youth)

- Teen center purpose: study session, live music w/o the drugs and alcohol
- Plan community service, a place to contribute to society, and feel important
- Alternatives that allow productive behaviors
- Positive influence over other youth, breaking down barriers between cultures
- Peer influence, youth know what youth want, they have a positive influence on other kids
- Get teens to be a part of the community in a bigger way

# What they have already accomplished:

- Non-profit status
- Internship programs and jobs
- Bright future
- Community service
- Leadership development

#### **Obstacles:**

- More funding
- Lease a space, add more organizations and build a community center

# **3. Physical Improvement Team Action Plan** (Maya Vengadasalam reviewed Action Plan – see attached)

## **4. Economic Development Action Plan** (Bruce reviewed Action Plan – see attached)

Overall Connections Between the Action Plans: The steering group identified that all of the plans share a lot of overlap.

- 1. Physical improvement and economic development have many similarities
  - a. Landlords are held in common
  - b. Show the community something
  - c. Recruit more businesses
- 2. Volunteers are needed in all plans
- 3. Multi-cultural ties into all the plans
- 4. Build a brand identity
- 5. Inclusivity is a priority with each project
- 6. Be clear about what the mission is (diversity is a key element)
- 7. Create an environment where people want to be
- 8. Youth are an important resource

- 9. Make branding a reality, with a deliberate connection to physical space and structure for the youth what they really want is a building
- 10. An International district creates a connection by: representing and being inclusive of everyone on East Hill and providing products, business, services and resources they need
- 11. Art fits within the culture

# Potential Partnerships

- 1. Bring in stronger partnership with the City of Kent "up the hill"
  - a. Are businesses in central code held to higher standard?
  - b. (Discussed obstacles with code enforcement resources)
  - c. What does aesthetic improvement mean? Sign codes may not make sense
- 2. Engaging more landowners and businesses (new model, not a model from another city)
- 3. Bring small business association to East Hill (not downtown), there is a void here that needs to be filled.
- 4. WA Cash, Impact Capital, loan funds, grants look at models that have worked for more diverse communities.
- 5. Offering business incubation in store (for existing businesses)
- 6. Hearing a concern multiple times
- 7. Kent school district, Pay to Play program
  - a. could that program's money also help our efforts to develop youth and the community?
- 8. Build budget liaison with city council Josh Hall and Mayor

#### Efficiencies

- 1. Bring everyone together to the same meeting, write a list of questions for the City Council and bring answers to the group.
- 2. Bring the kids to the meeting to see what they want. Kids know when you are real; they are interested in the building.
- 3. Do you share a common knowledge of what resources are available? Eg. Nursery and school horticultural class
- 4. Be deliberate about a structure, repurpose an older building
- 5. Education is needed that Teen Center will not negatively impact neighbors

## A Word from Lori: Funding--

United Way New Solutions funding intention is to listen to the community's solutions and bring those forward. We are talking to *Impact* Capital and *The Seattle Foundation*. It is important to say what we are really looking for is community driven. Community is taking the lead. We can take these four plans and really create something that is both

short-term and long-term, both volunteer and money, investments of people and property. Seattle Foundation wants to know this is not Lori and Josh's plan. In a really short period of time we have accomplished a huge piece of work. You are giving the community a huge gift, it belongs to the community.

Next steps – What is the best way to report back to the community?

- 1. Merge the plans.
- 2. Create a priority list within the plan
- 3. Set a date for a next meeting
- 4. Quick wins within a year
- 5. Visioning, tightening the plan, (march-now), early wins (sept-jan) with phase 2 by spring
- 6. Bring leaders of work group together to hash out a draft
- 7. Sign up for planning group meeting (to take place within the next 2 weeks) to design the forum (to take place in 4-5 weeks).
- 8. Use notes from tonight to merge plans
- 9. Name ourselves East Hill Stakeholders
- 10. Determine leadership / co-leadership for the group
- 11. List of people will be contacted by tomorrow to begin planning for a meeting time that works for a number of people within 5 weeks. In July there will be an event and whoever signs up to attend...we will trust to represent and plan on our behalf.